

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02500 011414Z

44

ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 SSO-00 /014 W

----- 072257

P R 011116Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3622

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 2500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ACOM

SUBJECT: DISCONTINUATION OF NIGHT COMMUNICATIONS WATCH

1. BECAUSE OF NIGHT TIME CURFEW SINCE ATTEMPTED COUP FEBRUARY 13, WE HAVE MAINTAINED COMMUNICATOR AND DUTY OFFICER IN CHANCERY DURING CURFEW HOURS (CURRENTLY 10 P.M. TO 6 A.M. LOCAL). WE DID THIS TO ENSURE IMMEDIATE REPORTING CAPABILITY DURING FIRST UNSETTLED DAYS FOLLOWING HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED'S ASSASSINATION. THE SITUATION SEEMS TO BE SETTLING DOWN FOR THE TIME BEING, AND WE BELIEVE NIGHT WATCH IS NO LONGER NECESSARY HERE.

2. IN VIEW OF THE LAGOS/WASHINGTON TIME DIFFERENTIAL, WE BELIEVE WE CAN REACT EFFECTIVELY TO VIRTUALLY ANY NIACT IMMEDIATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT HAVING TO RECEIVE AND DIGEST THE MESSAGE DURING CURFEW HOURS. MESSAGES TRANSMITTED AFTER BEGINNING OF CURFEW (4 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME) WOULD BE PROCESSED AT END OF CURFEW (MIDNIGHT WASHINGTON TIME), AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESPOND BY OPENING OF BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT WE COULD PROVIDE APPRECIABLY QUICKER OR MORE RESPONSIVE SUBSTANTIVE REACTION WERE WE TO CONTINUE THE NIGHT WATCH.

3. GIVEN ABOVE FACTS, EMBASSY PROPOSES STAND DOWN FROM NIGHT WATCH EFFECTIVE COB MARCH 1, UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES OBJECTION.

EASUM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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